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UNCLASSIFIED  
Department of State

JD

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OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

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ORIGIN NEA-04

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INFO CM-01 TC-01 P-01 RA-01 PMU-01 EAP-05 XX-01 /B14 A3 DOK  
INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00  
NSAE-00 L-01 PM-10 EAP-00 PA-02 INRE-00 ACDA-12  
USIC-00 SP-02 C-01 PRG-01 P-02 T-01 /B46 R

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O 182327Z MAR 88  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 085589

E.O. 12350: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, SA, CM, US  
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON SAUDI ARABIA'S CHINESE  
MISSILE ACQUISITION

File 1/27/93

1. FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE APPROVED FOR  
USE IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SUBJECT MISSILE  
ACQUISITION. EMBASSY IS INSTRUCTED TO CONSULT WITH THE  
DEPARTMENT BEFORE RESPONDING DIRECTLY TO ANY SUCH  
QUESTIONS.

2. Q. HAS SAUDI ARABIA ACQUIRED A NEW CHINESE  
INTERMEDIATE RANGE SURFACE TO SURFACE MISSILE SYSTEM  
WHICH IS CAPABLE OF DELIVERING A NUCLEAR WARHEAD?

A. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN IN  
CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA CONCERNING  
INDICATIONS THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS ACQUIRING SUCH A MISSILE  
SYSTEM FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THE UNITED  
STATES BELIEVES THAT THE ACQUISITION OF SUCH A SYSTEM IS  
NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION.

THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA HAS CONFIRMED THAT IT IS  
ACQUIRING AN INTERMEDIATE RANGE SURFACE TO SURFACE  
MISSILE SYSTEM BUT HAS ASSURED US CATEGORICALLY AT THE

VERY HIGHEST LEVEL THAT SAUDI ARABIA DOES NOT HAVE, NOR  
DOES IT INTEND TO ACQUIRE, ANY NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. THE  
GOVERNMENT OF CHINA HAS STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT IT WILL  
NOT EXPORT NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO ANY GOVERNMENT. WE ACCEPT  
THESE ASSURANCES.

Q. DOES THIS MISSILE SYSTEM POSE A THREAT TO ISRAEL?

A. THE MISSILE SYSTEM WOULD HAVE A RANGE WHICH WOULD  
INCLUDE ALL AREAS OF THE MIDDLE EAST. IT IS ANOTHER PART  
OF A DISTURBING REGIONAL TREND IN SURFACE TO SURFACE  
MISSILE PROLIFERATION. THE SUM TOTAL OF THE  
PROLIFERATION IS A DEGRADATION OF THE SECURITY OF ALL  
STATES IN THE REGION.

Q. WHAT ARE WE ASKING THE SAUDIS TO DO NOW THAT THEIR  
ACQUISITION OF THIS SYSTEM HAS COME TO LIGHT.

A. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS  
BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS WITH THE  
GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA ON THIS MATTER. I WILL NOT GO  
INTO THE DETAILS OF THESE EXCHANGES.

Q. HAVE WE TALKED TO THE ISRAELIS OR THE CHINESE?

A. I DO NOT INTEND TO DISCUSS OUR EXCHANGES ANY

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